

time such action, suit, or proceeding was instituted, may, by filing notice of such desire in the office of the clerk of such eastern or western district as the case may be, cause such action, suit, or proceeding to be transferred to said northern district, and upon the filing of such notice the cause shall proceed in the said northern district as though originally brought therein. The clerk in whose office such notice may be filed shall forthwith transmit all the papers and documents in his court pertaining to such cause to the clerk of said northern district and he shall also, with all reasonable dispatch, prepare and transmit to such last-named clerk a certified transcript of the record of all orders, interlocutory decrees or other entries in such cause, with his certificate under the seal of the court that the papers sent are all that were on file in said court belonging to the cause. For the performance of his duties under this section the clerk so transmitting and certifying such papers and records shall receive the same fees as are now allowed by law for similar services to be taxed in the bill of costs and regularly collected with the other costs in the cause; and such transcript, when so certified and received, shall henceforth constitute a part of the record in the cause in the court to which the transfer shall be made. With such transcript shall be remitted all deposits in the hands of the clerk to the credit or account of such cause. The clerk receiving such transcript and original papers shall file the same. In case the permissible prescribed venue of any such action, suit, or proceeding would, at the option of the plaintiff, have been in either the said eastern district or in the said western district, though said northern district had then been constituted, then such suit, action, or proceeding shall not be removed to said northern district except upon consent of all of the parties thereto which consent shall be filed with the clerk in lieu of the notice of transfer above specified and shall have the same effect.

Transmittal of papers, etc., by clerk.

Fees authorized, etc.

Removal only upon consent if venue optional.

Approved, February 16, 1925.

**CHAP. 234.**—An Act To authorize the payment of an indemnity to the Swedish Government for the losses sustained by its nationals in the sinking of the Swedish fishing boat Lilly.

February 16, 1925.

[S. 2458.]

[Public, No. 419.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there is hereby authorized to be paid to the Government of Sweden, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, as a matter of grace, and without reference to the question of liability therefor, as full indemnity for the losses sustained by the owners and crew of the Swedish fishing boat Lilly, or any other parties pecuniarily interested, through the sinking of that vessel by the United States Army transport Antigone on March 23, 1920, an amount equivalent to 26,381 kroner on the date of the approval of this Act, as recommended by the President in his message of January 3, 1924.

Sweden.

Payment authorized to, as indemnity for sinking of fishing boat "Lilly."

Post, p. 1339.

Approved, February 16, 1925.

**CHAP. 235.**—An Act To establish home ports of vessels of the United States, to validate documents relating to such vessels, and for other purposes.

February 16, 1925.

[S. 4162.]

[Public, No. 420.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That for the purposes of the navigation laws of the United States and of the Ship Mortgage Act, 1920, otherwise known as section 30 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, every vessel of the United States shall have a "home port" in the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and

Shipping.

Home port in United States to be fixed by owner of American vessel.

Vol. 41, p. 1000.

Vessel's documents to show.

Present home port recognized.

R. S., sec. 4141, p. 796, amended.

No bill of sale, assignment, etc., valid until recorded by collector of customs at home port.

Bills of sale, etc., to be recorded at home port of new document.

Prior conveyances, etc., declared valid if documented at proper port.

Retroactive effect.

*Proviso.*  
No vested right impaired.

Port of documentation deemed home port.  
Vol. 41, p. 1000.

Navigation laws and Ship Mortgage Act amended to conform herewith.  
Vol. 41, p. 1000.

Porto Rico, which port the owner of such vessel, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Navigation of the Department of Commerce, shall specifically fix and determine, and subject to such approval may from time to time change. Such home port shall be shown in the register, enrollment and license, or license of such vessel, which documents, respectively, are hereinafter referred to as the vessel's document. The home port shown in the document of any vessel of the United States in force at the time of the approval of this Act shall be deemed to have been fixed and determined in accordance with the provisions hereof. Section 4141 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended to conform herewith.

SEC. 2. No bill of sale, conveyance, mortgage, assignment of mortgage, or hypothecation (except bottomry), which includes a vessel of the United States or any portion thereof shall be valid in respect to such vessel against any person other than the grantor or mortgagor, his heirs or devisees, and any person having actual notice thereof, until such bill of sale, conveyance, mortgage, assignment of mortgage, or hypothecation is recorded in the office of the collector of customs at the home port of such vessel. Any bill of sale or conveyance of the whole or any part of a vessel shall be recorded at the home port of such vessel as shown in her new document.

SEC. 3. All conveyances and mortgages of any vessel or any part thereof, and all documentations, recordings, indorsements, and indexing thereof, and proceedings incidental thereto heretofore made or done, are hereby declared valid to the extent they would have been valid if the port or ports at which said vessel has in fact been documented from time to time had been the port or ports at which it should have been documented in accordance with law; and this section is hereby declared retroactive so as to accomplish such validation: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to deprive any person of any vested right.

SEC. 4. Wherever in the Ship Mortgage Act, 1920, otherwise known as section 30 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, the words "port of documentation" are used they shall be deemed to mean the "home port" of the vessel, except that the words "port of documentation" shall not include a port in which a temporary document is issued.

SEC. 5. All such provisions of the Navigation Laws of the United States and of the Ship Mortgage Act, 1920, otherwise known as section 30 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, as are in conflict with this Act are hereby amended to conform herewith.

Approved, February 16, 1925.

February 17, 1925.  
[H. R. 5197.]  
[Public, No. 421.]

**CHAP. 252.**—An Act To amend section 71 of the Judicial Code, as amended.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 71 of the Judicial Code, as amended, be amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 71. (a) The State of Arkansas is divided into two districts, to be known as the western and eastern districts of Arkansas.

"(b) The western district shall include four divisions constituted as follows: The Texarkana division, which shall include the territory embraced on July 1, 1920, in the counties of Sevier, Howard, Little River, Pike, Hempstead, Miller, Lafayette, and Nevada; the El Dorado division, which shall include the territory embraced on such date in the counties of Columbia, Ouachita, Union, and Calhoun; the Fort Smith division, which shall include the territory embraced on such date in the counties of Polk, Scott, Logan, Sebastian, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Benton, and Johnson; and the Harrison division, which shall include the territory embraced on such date in

United States courts.  
*Ante*, p. 90, amended.

Arkansas judicial districts.

Western district.  
Texarkana division.

El Dorado division.

Fort Smith division.

Harrison division.